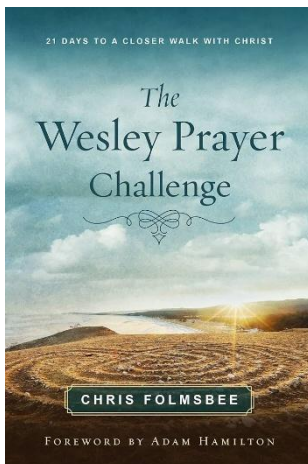

The Cornerstone

The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Psalm 118:22-23

VOLUME LXIV NUMBER 3

January 15, 2026



A New Year invites new opportunities, right?

This January I have decided to spend “*21 days to a closer walk with Christ*,” as my first goal of this new year. Would you like to join me?

I discovered this book and decided that beginning Jan. 5th, I would take time each day to strengthen my prayer life as I enter 2026. I will be out of the office for 2 weeks in January...one on vacation and one on a mission trip. But I invite anyone interested in this challenge to gather with me via Zoom to chat about our highs and lows in the challenge. January 20th, February 3rd, & February 10th at 7:00 p.m. I will be on ZOOM for anyone interested in gathering to share our experience. Use these links to join me...

Jan 20 at 7:00 via Zoom Surrender and Suffering: *I am no longer my own... put me to suffering.*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84980973175?pwd=9CryKPc9EYKfH2afXGLC760egYsPWG.1>

Meeting ID: 849 8097 3175 Passcode: 618428

Feb 3 at 7:00 via Zoom Honor and Humility: *Let me be employed by thee... to thy pleasure and disposal.*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88469103303?pwd=J4jsS5dbxWLLqsO7txFHpBcWNClAet.1>

Meeting ID: 884 6910 3303 Passcode: 605673

Feb 10 at 7:00 via Zoom Community and Commitment: *And now... Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85730555419?pwd=xfXfu5HJRqJiLdVMLfEBV0aUbQ4huG.1>

Meeting ID: 857 3055 5419 Passcode: 713435

DATE CHANGE



mission ON THE MOVE

January 24th – 31st a dozen people from three churches will be traveling to West Virginia to work with a UM mission site helping neighbors in need. C.R.O.S.S is a ministry focused on serving lower economic communities with housing repairs. We will be traveling to WV in rental vans, living in a home designated to house volunteers, and cooking our meals together.

Supplies, housing, transportation, and food come with a cost. If you would like to participate in this meaningful and valuable ministry with our volunteers, your financial gifts may be mailed to the office or placed in the offering plates marked **Mission Trip**. We also welcome your prayers as we prepare for our trip and during the week we are gone. We will share our experience with the congregational family in Feb.

Save the Date!

Bishop's Days on the District

Bishop Moore-Koikoi is planning to spend time in each District at an evening worship service.

Locations will be announced soon. In the meantime, mark your calendars and make a plan to attend.

Raritan Shore- Jan 29



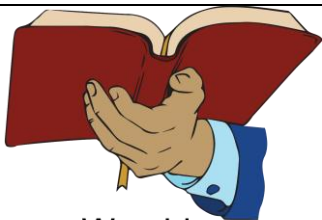
CLUSTER UM CHURCH CALENDAR

Old First (Jill Hubbard-Smith) 197 Locust Ave., West Long Branch (Stream: Facebook)
Wayside (David Geller) 1229 West Park Ave., Ocean (Stream: YouTube)
Oceanport (Donna Nielson) 50 Mail St., Oceanport (Stream: YouTube)
St. Luke's (Chungmi Kang) 535 Broadway, Long Branch
Embury (Chungmi Kang) 49 Church St., Little Silver
FUMCO (Jill Hubbard-Smith) 103 Monmouth Rd., Oakhurst (Stream: YouTube, Facebook)

2026

Jan. 17	5:00 p.m.	Chicken Dinner	Oceanport
Jan. 18	5:00 p.m.	Free Community Spaghetti Dinner	FUMCO with Old First
Jan. 24-31		Mission Trip to WV	
Feb. 15	5:00 p.m.	Free Community Spaghetti Dinner	FUMCO with Old First
Feb. 17	5:00 p.m.	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	Oceanport
Aug. 19	5:00 p.m.	Peach Festival	Oceanport





Worship

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
January 18, 2026

Counters: Randy Danielson, Jane Gittines

Greeter: Barbara Gruezke

Usher: Jim Scisco

Acolyte: Joy More

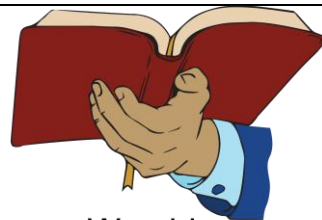
Lay Reader: Joy More

Fellowship Hosts: Judy Gorra, Soon Hur

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Pat Whitney by Robin Whitney & Tommy Vignola.

Given in honor of Vivian Gill's 12th birthday by Grandma, Carol Whyte.



Worship

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
January 25, 2026

Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John Montgomery

Greeter: Pamela Lynch

Usher: Robin Whitney

Acolyte: Bonnie McNamara

Lay Reader: Susan McRae

Fellowship Hosts: Ron Danielson & Randy Danielson

Altar Flowers

Given by Kitty Amato in loving memory of her parents, Mae & Harry Duerler.

Given in honor of Jaxson Liam Henderson's 4th birthday by his family.



To my church family,
I just wanted to thank everyone for the thoughtful cards, words of sympathy, and encouragement after the loss of my brother, Ralph. I would be so lost without all of you.

Thank you, Bonnie Sue McNamara

Thank you to my church family for your prayers, cards, calls, and Jill's visit and beautiful service, and to those who were able to come to Cliff's viewing. It comforts me more than you'll ever know. Also I want to thank the United Methodist Women for the Christmas gift bag and card.
Pam Miller

Lost



There is a silver-toned chargeable candlelighter missing from the shelf in the back of the sanctuary. It

is the personal property of one of our acolytes. If you know where it is, please let the office know.



Our deepest sympathies go to Bonnie McNamara & family upon the death of her brother, Lloyd on January 11th.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Bonnie, 1402 Birch Drive, Ocean, 07712.



THIS SUNDAY!

The third Sunday of every month is a FREE to all community spaghetti dinner hosted by the Outreach Committee and Old First UMC. You are invited to Fellowship Hall for a dinner of salad, bread, and spaghetti with your choice of marinara, meatballs, or sausages, and dessert. Birthdays are also celebrated with a cake for those celebrating their birthday during that month. You may eat in or take out. Service starts at 5 p.m. Please spread the word. The next date for the dinner is January 18th.



Please be Praying for...

Our homebound: Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould

At home: Avery Fallon, Peg Kuchen

Jersey Shore Care Center: Dave Miller

Sunnyside Manor, Wall: Nancy Burt

Our church family worshipping at a distance: Barbara Novick, Jean Gillette, Laura Eble, Jack & Caroline Chesbro



Something to think about:

Don't dig up in doubt what you planted in faith.

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

Jan 19-Jan. 24

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42



FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

Do you have what it takes to be a fellowship host? YES, YOU DO!



Coffee Fellowship

Please sign up in the upstairs kitchen. The very simple requirements to be a fellowship host are posted

on the poster board. Or you may speak with Bonnie McNamara.



We are looking for sponsors for our World Vision child, Tsedalech. All months are open except October, January, February, March, & September. Sponsorship donations are \$39. Please make checks out to the church. If you'd like a dedication, please let the office know.





UP FOR GRABS

In Wesley Hall there are cushioned folding chairs that are free for the taking. The chairs are being replaced with a different kind of chair and before discarding them they are being offered to all of you. For more information or to set up a time to take them, call the church office 732-531-1150.

There are several chairs still left for the taking.



The Little Free Pantry

Please think of stocking shelf-stable milk, powdered milk, soup, stew, chili, whole grain cereal, toiletries, hygiene products, baby food, applesauce, canned beans,

canned chicken, canned tuna, canned salmon, SPAM, canned ham, canned vegetables, olive oil, canola oil, crackers, dried herbs, spices, canned fruit, dried fruit, granola bars, instant mashed potatoes, meals in a box, nuts, pasta, peanut butter, & rice.

A good idea this week:
Mouthwash



UWIF Spring Garage Sale-Save the Date

Saturday, April 25

Please keep our spring garage sale in mind as you make room for your new Christmas items. Mark your calendars! More info to follow.



MERCY CENTER

The Outreach Commission thanks you for your continued support of the Mercy Center food bank. Here are the current needs: canned meats, canned fish, beans, lentils, rice, pasta, oats, whole-grain cereals, low-sodium soup, canned fruits, canned vegetables, peanut butter, powdered milk, & nonperishable oils.



DATE CHANGE!



Every 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. Jill and friends meet at the Blue Swan Diner in Ocean for an informal gathering. **All are invited! Next date is 1/20.**

**OUR JANUARY COMMUNION OFFERING
BENEFITS THE PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY
FUND**

Tsedalech, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of January in memory of Martha Suarez, Aldo's mother by Aldo Suarez & Randy Danielson.